February 26, 2010

Dear Director:

As you are aware, the United States House of Representatives (House) passed the Jobs for Main Street Act (H.R. 2847) which proposed another round of stimulus funding. The language in this bill is very similar to the previous stimulus funding except that it requires an accelerated schedule for awarding the first 50% of the funds received by each state. This schedule would require that contracts be awarded for the first 50% of the funds within 90 days of passage and signing of the bill.

While the United States Senate may not enact a stimulus bill, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has taken steps to ensure expeditious action in the event that the bill is passed and signed. On January 21, 2010, IDOT published a list of "shovel ready" projects which could proceed in the event of passage of H.R. 2847. This list of projects is provisional and "subject to change based on final federal legislation, new appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly and approval by the Governor" as stated in the public notice regarding this project listing. The list of projects can be found online at http://www.dot.il.gov/stimulus/index.html.

IDOT is seeking your input regarding these projects as well as other potential projects on the state system. As stated above, the first 50% of any stimulus funds must awarded within 90 days of the bill signing. This does not allow for any flexibility on the projects which make up the first letting. However, IDOT will have some flexibility regarding the remaining funds depending on the deadlines in the final legislation. Your comments regarding other potential "shovel ready" projects on the state system will be reviewed and taken into consideration when IDOT determines the projects to be implemented with the remaining funding.

Therefore, we are asking you to visit the website noted above and provide any comments or recommendations you may have to the IDOT district office responsible for planning and programming highway projects in your area. The appropriate IDOT district office and its contact information can be found on the attached map.

Once again, I want to thank you for all of your hard work and assistance in developing and maintaining the transportation system in the state of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Sherman Acting Bureau Chief

cc: Charles Ingersoll Chris Reid